

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 095839

45

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 L-03 SS-20 SP-03 INR-10 SIL-01

RSC-01 /070 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DLAZAR:TK

APPROVED BY ARA AMB WILLIAM G. BOWDLER

EB: JINGERSOLL (SUBS)

ARA/L:DGANTZ (SUBS)

----- 091676

P 091426Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 095839

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, ELAB, HO

SUBJECT: STANDARD FRUIT LABOR PROBLEM

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 1875

1. DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR NEAR-FUTURE PROBLEMS INDICATED IN PARA 2 REFTEL, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE RAPIDLY MOUNTING TENSION IN THE WHOLE LABOR FIELD IN HONDURAS. WE ARE PARTICULARLY TROUBLED BY FONESCA'S ANALYSIS THAT STANDARD IS OPERATING ILLEGALLY IN NOT PAYING ITS WORKER. THIS PLUS BACKGROUND OF BANANA ISSUES, WITH OUR SUPPOSITION THAT INCREASING LABOR PROBLEMS AND OTHER PRESSURES CURRENTLY FACED BY GOH ARE LIABLE TO LEAD TO STRONGER-THAN-NORMAL REACTIONS BY GOH, PRESENT REAL POSSIBILITY THAT EMBASSY MIGHT BE CALLED UPON TO ASSURE STANDARD OF FAIR TREATMENT BY GOH WHILE BEING IN A WEAKENED POSITION TO DO SO BECAUSE OF STANDARD'S OWN ARGUABLY ILLEGAL ACTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 095839

2. IN THIS SITUATION DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS YOU CALL IN

STANDARD REPS IN HONDURAS, BE SURE THEY ARE AWARE OF THE LABOR SITUATION AS THE GOH PROBABLY VIEWS IT, AND POINT OUT TO THEM THE DANGER FORESEEN IN PARA 1 ABOVE. YOU SHOULD URGE THEM TO REVIEW THEIR LEGAL POSITION ON THE ISSUE OF PAYMENT OF WAGES TO IDLED WORKERS AND BE SURE

THEY ARE AWARE OF POSITION OF THOSE GOH OFFICIALS WE HAVE TALKED TO ON THIS POINT.

3. YOU SHOULD BE CERTAIN STANDARD UNDERSTANDS THAT WE ARE NOT REPEAT NOT PRE-JUDGING THE LEGAL ISSUE INVOLVED ALTHOUGH IF THEY AGREE THEIR LEGAL POSITION IS TENUOUS WE WOULD CERTAINLY URGE THEM TO CONSIDER THE VIEW THAT PAYMENT OF THE WAGES IN QUESTION WOULD BE CHEAP INSURANCE. OUR PURPOSE HERE IS TO DO SOME ADVANCED PLANNING WITH STANDARD ABOUT POSSIBLE PROBLEMS WE FORESEE AND TO BE SURE THAT WHEN AND IF USG ASSISTANCE IS APPROPRIATE WE WILL BE DEALING FROM THE MOST SOLID POSITION POSSIBLE.

4. STANDARD MAY READ THIS AS AN ATTEMPT ON OUR PART TO PRESSURE THEM INTO SHIPPING FRUIT. CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO DISABUSE THEM OF ANY SUCH NOTION. THAT OBVIOUSLY IS STANDARD'S BUSINESS.

5. IF YOU THINK IT DESIRABLE, DEPARTMENT CAN REPEAT SUBSTANCE THIS MESSAGE TO STANDARD REPS HERE.
RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CUSTOMS DUTIES, WAGES, LABOR DISPUTES, BANANAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE095839
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DLAZAR:TK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740113-0269
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740561/aaaacbxa.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: TEGUCIGALPA 1875
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STANDARD FRUIT LABOR PROBLEM
TAGS: ETRD, ELAB, HO, STANDARD FRUIT
To: TEGUCIGALPA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005